

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8262

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, WB, GW, DA, FR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SAS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PAN AM

BERLIN/COPENHAGEN SERVICE

REF: (A) STATE 188050, (B) STATE 172916

1. SUMMARY. SAS VICE PRESIDENT SOEDERBERG, IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY CAA, ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING US VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED BERLIN/COPENHAGEN SERVICE BY PAN AM, AND COMMENTED ON SAS AIR SERVICES TO EAST BERLIN. HE SOUGHT A BETTER IDEA OF THE IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO THE PROPOSED PAN AM SERVICE, THE URGENCY WITH WHICH WE MAY PRESS FOR A DANISH DECISION, AND OUR FLEXIBILITY REGARDING THE FORM WHICH DANISH APPROVAL MIGHT TAKE. SOEDERBERG THOUGHT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT OBJECT TO THE COPENHAGEN SERVICE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT FOR SAS ITS COPENHAGEN/ BERLIN SERVICE WAS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE, BUT GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR SAS ON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROUTES SOUTHWARD WERE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL VALUE. END SUMMARY.

2. HENRY SOEDERBERG, SAS VICE PRESIDENT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CALLED ON EMBASSY CAA OCTOBER 22 TO DISCUSS "PAN AM'S" PROPOSED SERVICE BETWEEN BERLIN AND COPENHAGEN AND OTHER BERLIN AIR MATTERS CONCERNING SAS." HE HAD NOT RPT NOT CONTACTED EITHER THE BRITISH OR FRENCH, HE SAID, AND WAS RETURNING TO COPENHAGEN THE FOLLOWING DAY. CASS CONFINED HIS REMARKS MAINLY TO GENERALITIES ESPECIALLY ON QUESTIONS REGARDING US/SCAN BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT RELATIONS.

3. SOEDERBERG HAD TWO CONCERNS ABOUT THE US NOTE TO THE DANES ON THE COPENHAGEN SERVICE. THERE WAS, HE FELT, A SOMEWHAT THREATENING TONE IN THE NOTE, AS THOUGH THE US WERE PREPARED TO CALL PROMPTLY FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE BILATERAL IF THE DANES DID NOT CONCUR. HE WONDERED IF THIS WAS INTENDED, AND IF THE US DID INDEED FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE SERVICE. SECONDLY, HE SAID, THE SCANDINAVIANS WERE MOST RELUCTANT TO AMEND THE BILATERAL. WOULD THE US BE AMENABLE TO SOME OTHER FORM OF APPROVAL FOR THE PAN AM SERVICE. PERHAPS A LESS FORMAL EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS. CASS SAID (WITH PARA 2, REFTEL B IN MIND) HE DID NOT KNOW WASHINGTON THINKING ON THIS, BUT THAT SO FAR AS HE WAS AWARE THE IMPORTANT THING WAS DANISH AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SERVICE, AND NOT MUCH THE FORM IN WHICH IT WAS GRANTED.

4. SOEDERBERG WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF TIME PRESSURE WAS ON THE DECISION. DID PAN AM PLAN TO START THE SERVICE IMMEDIATELY? ONE OF THE SEMI-MONTHLY HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS ON CIVIL AIR MATTERS BETWEEN THE SCANDINAVIANS WAS TAKING PLACE IN TWO WEEKS, AND HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO PRESSURE FOR A DECISION UNTIL AFTER THAT. CAA SAID HE WAS SURE THAT FOR PLANNING AND OTHER PRUPOSES A PROMPT ANSWER WAS DESIRED, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT THERE WAS ANY IMMEDIATE PRESSURE. (NO INDICATION WAS GIVEN TO SOEDERBERG AT ANY TIME THAT ALLIED AGREEMENT IS NOT YET REAHED ON APPROVAL OF COPENHAGEN SERVICE.)

5. RUSSIAN CONCURRENCE, SOEDERBERG SAID, WOULD IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER HAVE TO BE OBTAINED FOR FLIGHTS TO TAKE PLACE, AND DIDN'T WE ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS ON THIS SCORE. CAA POINTED OUT THAT, AS SOEDERBERG KNEW, PAN AM FLIGHTS SIMILAR IN NATURE HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE TO AMSTERDAM FOR SOME MONTHS, AND NO PROBLEMS HAD ARISEN. IF THERE WERE INDEED A QUESTION OF PRECEDENT, IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND WE DID NOT LOOK FOR TROUBLE FROM THE RUSSIANS. SOEDERBERG DEMURRED, SAYING THAT AS HE SAW IT THE AMSTERDAM ROUTE WAS A KIND OF LOGICAL EXTENSION OF BERLIN ROUTES TO THE WEST, AND TO WESTERN CAPITALS. A ROUTE TO SCANDINAVIA MIGHT SEEM DIFFERENT IN THE RUSSIAN VIEW.

6. TURING TO SAS RELATIONS WITH INTERFLUG AND THE GDR, SOEDERBERG SAID HE THOUGHT SAS WOULD HAVE TO TOUCH BASE IN SOME

WAY WITH THE GDR BEFORE THE DANES APPROVED PAN AM'S SERVICE. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WOULD BE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT TALKS BETWEEN THE SCANDINAVIANS AND THE GDR WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. MORE IMPORTANT, HE SAID , WAS THE SAS COULD NOT AFFORT TO RISK ITS GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS ON INTERNATION ROUTES, WHICH WERE ON SIGNIFICANT COMMERICAL VALUE. THE SCHOENEFELD/COPENHAGEN SERVICE WAS A MERE PENNY--WE WERE PROBABLY AWARE THAT SAS WAS REDUCING ITS REQUENCIES - -BUT THE GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS REALLY COUNTED. IT WAS BEST, THEREFORE, FOR SAS TO AT LEAST INFORM THE GDR OF THE PROPOSED PAN AM SERVICE. CAA SAID THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING SAS WOULD AVE TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF. KLM, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN FLYING BETWEEN AMSTERDAM AND SCHOENEFLED FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THE PAN AM SERVICE TO AMSTERDAM HAD STARTED, AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAD EXPERIENCED NO DIFFICULTIES WITH THE GDR.

7. THERE WERE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS, SOEDERBERG SAID, WITH REGARD TO GDR APPROVAL OF OVERFLIGHTS RIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN FOR SAS ON THE NORTH/SOUGHT ROUTE. HE DID NOT REALLY EXPECT ANY; AT LEAST NOT UNTIL FURTHER EVOLUTION OF FRG/GDR CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS. HILLENBRAND

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